

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 DEA-05 CIAE-00

INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 SS-20 L-03 H-03

HEW-08 AGR-20 DRC-01 /171 W
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P R 121132Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5050

INFO USIA WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: POPPY DECISION DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ANKARA 5497

1. DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING TURKEY'S DECISION TO LIFT THE
POPPY BAN CONTINUED TO RECEIVE HEAVY COVERAGE IN FRIDAY
MORNING EDITIONS OF THE TURKISH PRESS AND ON RADIO AND
TELEVISION.

2. MOST PAPERS FRONT-PAGED A DECISION THAT THE GOT WILL PROVIDE
FUNDS TO COMPENSATE FARMERS WHO DID NOT GROW POPPIES
DURING THE LAS SEASON(REFTEL).

3. ALSO RECEIVING HEAVY COVERAGE WAS A STATEMENT BY
JUSTICE PARTY CHAIRMAN SULEYMAN DEMIREL THAT HIS PARTY
WOULD NAME PARTICIPANTS FOR A "GOOD WILL" DELEGATION TO
THE UNITED STATES TO EXPLAIN TURKEY'S POSITION ON THE POPPY
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ISSUE. (REFTEL). IN HIS STATEMENT, DEMIREL REPORTEDLY NOTED THAT

WHILE HE DID NOT SEE WHY A MISSION TO THE U.S. TO EXPLAIN WAS NECESSARY, HE BELIEVED IT WAS HIS PARTY'S DUTY TO OPPOSE FOREIGN EFFORTS AGAINST TURKEY AS A RESULT OF THE POPPY DECISION.

4. REPORTING AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GUNES, MILLIYET CARRIED THE BANNER HEADLINE: "AMERICA'S CUTTING AID INCONCEIVABLE." THE MILLIYET INTERVIEW DEALT MAINLY WITH THE MINISTER'S RECENT TRIP TO ROMANIA AND HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO PEKING. BUT IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY A MOVE IN THE U.S. CONGRESS TO CUT OFF AID TO TURKEY, GUNES REPORTEDLY REPLIED:

"TURKEY'S ALLIANCE WITH AMERICA IS CONTINUING AS IT WAS BEFORE THE OPIUM BAN. IN OTHER WORDS, THIS AID WOULD BE CONTINUING IF TURKEY HAD NOT IMPOSED THE OPIUM BAN. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT AID WHICH WAS GIVEN WHEN OPIUM WAS BEING WIDELY PLANTED WOULD STOP (OR THAT) ALLIANCES WILL CHANGE BECAUSE THE BAN IS LIFTED NOW."

5. MILLIYET ALSO GAVE THE FRONT PAGE PLACE TO A STATEMENT BY LEADERS OF THE JUSTICE PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP DECLARING THAT A STATEMENT EARLIER THIS WEEK BY MAVERICK JP DEPUTY MURAT BAYRAK (ANKARA 5485) EXPRESSED ONLY HIS PERSONAL VIEW AND NOT THAT OF THE PARTY GROUP. BAYRAK HAD ACCUSED NATO AND ESPECIALLY THE U.S. (FURTHER COMMENTS ON BAYRAK INCLUDED IN SEPTTEL.)

6. TRT RADIO AND TELEVISION IN A STORY THAT APPARENTLY BROKE TOO LATE FOR MOST NEWSPAPERS, REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT WILL MAKE A TOUR OF POPPY GROWING AREAS. ACCORDING TO RADIO AND TELEVISION, ECEVIT TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THURSDAY'S MINISTERIAL MEETING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT OPIUM SMUGGLING. THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION TO MAKE CONTROL EFFECTIVE.

7. IN LOCAL COVERAGE OF FOREIGN REACTION TO THE POPPY DECISION, GUNAYDIN REPORTED IN DETAIL A STORY IN THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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WEEK'S TIME MAGAZINE WHICH SAID THAT SINCE THE POPPY BAN, THE NUMBER OF U.S. HEROIN ADDICTS IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE FALLEN FROM 600,000 TO 200,000. YENI ORTAM, IN A FRONT PAGE STORY, REPORTED ON A COMMENTARY IN THE NEUE ZURCHER SEITUNG WHICH NOTED THE STRENGTH OF U.S. REACTION TO TURKEY'S DECISION.

8. IN EDITORIALS AND COMMENT, ALTAN OYMEN WRITING IN

LEFT-LIBERAL CUMHURIYET ARGUED THAT THE TURKISH POPPY BAN DID NOT STOP SMUGGLING INTO THE UNITED STATES AND THAT SOME U.S. POLITICIANS ARE EXPLOITING THE TURKISH DECISION FOR POLITICAL GAIN. HE ASSERTED THAT IN RECENT YEARS, AMERICAN AID TO TURKEY HAS DIMINISHED AND THAT IF CUT OFF ENTIRELY, IT COULD BE REPLACED BY CREDITS FROM OTHER SOURCES.

9. WRITING IN RIGHT-WING TERCUMAN, AHMET KABAKLI BLAMED THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT FOR FAILING TO INFORM FOREIGN PUBLIC OPINION ADEQUATELY ABOUT THE NEED FOR TURKEY'S DECISION. HE PREDICTED THAT THE PLANNED GOOD WILL MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES WOULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING.

10. YASAR AYSEV, WRITING IN PRO-GOVERNMENT BARIS, CONDEMNED THE STATEMENT EARLIER THIS WEEK BY JUSTICE PARTY DEPUTY BAYRAK(PARA T) AYSEV POINTED OUT THAT ALL PARTIES SUPPORTED THE LIFTING OF THE POPPY BAN.
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